THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the aggregate level the programme has been running very satisfactorily in achieving the targets set for Case detection, Case treatment and the cure of the patients.

Out of 22981 posts of both medical and paramedical staff sanctioned by States/UTs under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, 18572 (80.8 per cent) are filled.

Detailed break-up sanctioned staff, number of posts filled State-wise is placed at Statement—I. (*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 105).

(c) The States/U.Ts are being constantly pursued to fill up the remaining posts even by lifting the ban wherever imposed. In order to make trained manpower available for filling these posts, the training facilities at 45 Training Centres have been augmented.

Restructure of Lucknow based Research, Design and Standards Organisations

2969. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have drawn up a sum of Rs. 280 crores scheme for restructuring the Lucknow Based Research, Design and Standards Organisations to ensure that to absorb frontier technology in Rail transportation and develop them for application to the Railway safety of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the names of the main lines which are likely to be covered under the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) With a view to upgrading railway technology in order to bring the same at par with that obtaining in developed countries, a Technology Development Plan has been prepared by Railways' Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (R.D.S.O.). This Plan has identified specific Missions and Key Development Areas where technological improvements are to be made. It also envisages quality improvements in R.D.S.O. and better involvement of R.D.S.O. with industry and centres of learning.

(c) The Plan provides for upgradation of technology in general and is not confined to any particular line.

Declaration of State Roads as National Highway in Andhra Pradesh

2970. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government has sent proposal to the Central Government for taking over State Roads as National Highway:

(b) if so, the names of these roads which have been taken by the Central Government as National Highways in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) the number of roads that are likely to be declared as National Highways during 1988-89; and

(d) whether the Narkatpalli-Nalgonda Road highway has been included in the National Highway and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) During the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have projected the requirement for the declaration of certain State Roads as National Highways. However, no road was included in the National Highways system in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years. Owing to limitation of resources under the Central Sector Roads programme and other priority considerations, it is not possible now to declare new National Highways, including Narkatpalli-Nalgonda Road.